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Arms and Explosives

Shooting by Mr. A. F. Bulkley, Superintendent, Railway Police, Trichinopoly.

552 *Q.*—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on or about the 21st July 1928, Mr. A. F. Bulkley, Superintendent, Railway Police, Trichinopoly, shot a man with a revolver in or near Villupuram station platform on the occasion of the railway strike and whether the fingers of the person shot at were injured thereby ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that at about that time the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police were on the Villupuram Railway Station platform ;

(*c*) whether Mr. Bulkley had any instruction or received any order from the District Magistrate, South Arcot, to open fire ;

(*d*) whether the Government have received reports touching the revolver incident from the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, South Arcot ;

(*e*) whether the Government have held or ordered any enquiry touching the said incident ;

(*f*) whether any, and if so, what action was taken on the conduct of Mr. Bulkley in discharging a revolver ; and

(*g*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the papers connected with the said incident including the reports of the District Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police ?

A.—(*a*) No. Mr. Bulkley fired one shot into the ground. He did not fire at or injure anyone. The incident took place outside the station about 100 yards down the line.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The District Magistrate sent a report about the general incidents of the strike in his district.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) None.

(*g*) The Government see no reason to do so.

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member to give us some details of the incidents which led up to Mr. Bulkley's opening fire ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Mr. Bulkley was surrounded by a mob who threw stones at him and therefore he discharged his revolver."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask the hon. Member to state whether the shot fired into the ground deflected its course and caused injury to anybody ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask the hon. Member whether the answer to clause (*a*) is based upon the statement or report of Mr. Bulkley or whether it is also based on the report of the District Magistrate ? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is based on the report of the District Magistrate."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether the report of the District Magistrate does or does not refer to this revolver incident, and particularly to the injuries ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is a complete report of the whole incident."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I want to know whether there is any reference to any person having sustained injuries."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is not by the opening of fire by Mr. Bulkley."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Does it show exactly by whom these injuries were caused ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The injury was caused by a Reserve Policeman. When he found that Mr. Bulkley was in danger, he shot at the crowd."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*g*), may I know why the Government see no reason to place the report on the table ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is a confidential document."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Did the District Magistrate authorize Mr. Bulkley to open fire ?"

The hon Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The District Magistrate was far away from Mr. Bulkley."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Should not Mr. Bulkley get the sanction of the District Magistrate ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It was unnecessary. The moment Mr. Bulkley got down from the train he was surrounded by a huge mob. The District Magistrate was far away from him."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Did not the District Magistrate report to the Government that Mr. Bulkley opened fire without his permission ?

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is not accurate, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know under what authority the hon. the Home Member has said that Mr. Bulkley was surrounded by a mob and therefore he had to fire in self-defence. Is it upon the mere statement of Mr. Bulkley or upon the report of any other officer of Government sent there to make an enquiry ?"

11-15 a.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is stated that the District Magistrate has sent the report."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the statement that Mr. Bulkley was surrounded by a mob is that of Mr. Bulkley himself or is that statement contained in any official report received by the Government ?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is contained in the official reports received from the District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Police."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask whether those reports are based on any enquiry open or public conducted by these officers, with notice to those who were injured by the shots?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"There was no enquiry necessary at all."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member the authority for those statements in the report so far as the Government can ascertain from the reports themselves?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have said that the District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Police have sent their reports."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Did they make any enquiries?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It was not necessary to make any enquiries; they are matters of fact."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Where was the District Magistrate then?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"He was about 100 yards away."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Did not the District Magistrate see the mob?"

The hon Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"He might have seen it; he came there immediately and found out the true state of affairs."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask my hon. Friend why when the District Magistrate was so near and who saw that Mr. Bulkley was surrounded by a mob and that the mob was throwing stones, he thinks he was not near enough to Mr. Bulkley to get orders to open fire?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Between the District Magistrate and Mr. Bulkley there was a crowd which was throwing stones at Mr. Bulkley."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know if the hon. the Home Member is aware that the District Magistrate did not open fire?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The question of the District Magistrate opening fire or not is not before the House."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"If, as is stated, there was a crowd between the District Magistrate and Mr. Bulkley, why did not the District Magistrate open fire in the circumstances in which Mr. Bulkley opened fire?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The mob was towards the direction where Mr. Bulkley was. The District Magistrate was a little far away. The mob was then cleared and the District Magistrate reached the place."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know if the fire that was opened by the Police was with revolvers or with guns?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"Was not a man injured, with his five fingers shot by a revolver by Mr. Bulkley?"

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member is not asking a supplementary question."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"May I know if the statement that the man was shot by a revolver by the Superintendent himself, is not correct?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"As I have said, Mr. Bulkley did not shoot at the man injured."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"May I ask if the statement given by the man whose fingers were shot is not the correct one?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"As I have said, the statement is from the report of the officials."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know if Mr. Bulkley was surrounded by a crowd?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"Yes, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"If he was surrounded by the mob, may I ask whether a part of the mob at least was not within the sight of the District Magistrate?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"Yes, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"With reference to clause (*e*) of the answer, may I know the reasons why the Government have not held or ordered any enquiry touching the incident?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"No enquiry was necessary; because we have received official reports on the subject from the District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Police and we are satisfied with those reports."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"May I ask whether, with reference to those official enquiries said to have been conducted, any notice was given to the persons who were injured?"

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member did not say that any official enquiry was conducted."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"The District Magistrate was 100 yards away; he came to the place and his report is a result of his enquiries."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"With regard to those enquiries conducted by those officials, was any notice given to those who were injured as a result of those incidents?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
"The injured were there."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"May I know whether that statement is contained in the report of the officer who made the enquiry?"

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The hon Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With regard to the answer to clause (g) of the question, may I know the reasons why the Government decline to place on the table the reports of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"There was no report from the District Superintendent of Police. There was a report from the District Magistrate, and it is confidential."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know if the reason, why the Government decline to place the report, is that the District Magistrate himself admits that Mr. Bulkley opened fire without his orders?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"No, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know whether any statement was taken from the injured person?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"I have already answered that question."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know why the District Magistrate who was only a few yards away from Mr. Bulkley was not in a position to judge whether fire should be opened or not?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"The question was not before the District Magistrate; it was before Mr. Bulkley."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"May I ask whether a part or the whole of the report of the District Magistrate is confidential?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"The whole of the document is confidential."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know if Mr. Bulkley offered a sum of Rs. 100 to the injured man to keep quiet?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"I am not aware of it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know who was the District Magistrate at that time?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"Mr. Upendra Pai."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Has he been transferred since?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"No, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire whether the official view is the only view to be accepted by the Government? Is there no other view?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
"There is no other view at present."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"In view of the fact that the Home Member was saying that a head constable opened fire and that the man was injured, was any order given to that head constable to open fire ?"

The hon. Khan Bahaur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— "No, Sir ; when he found that Mr. Bulkley was in danger, he immediately fired a shot in order to save Mr. Bulkley."

Books and Publications

Alleged proscription of the "Bheeshma Prathignya."

*553 Q.—The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to proscribe *Bheeshma Prathignya* especially the scene of moral delinquency of Satyavati from staging ?

A.—There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLPALLI :—"Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of proscribing such dramas ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— "There is no such proposal at present ; if the hon. Member writes to the Government bringing facts and figures to their notice, the Government will consider the question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Before the Government makes up its mind to interfere with literature, will the Government consider that Law and Government cannot really regulate these literary productions ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— "As I have said, there is no proposal before the Government." (Voices :—Thanks.)

Police

Alleged ill-treatment of the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly Railway strike case.

*554 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a letter from Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar about the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly Railway strike case ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some of the accused in the said case are over 55 years old and suffering from diseases such as hernia, etc., and whether all the accused were made to walk a distance of three miles from the Central Jail to the Court of the Deputy Magistrate, Trichinopoly, on 14th September 1928 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that they represented to the escort officer that they were too ill to walk ;

(*d*) whether the escort officer reported the matter to his superiors and whether their representation resulted in the men being handcuffed ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on being made to walk like this, one of them fainted and fell on the road three times ;